

“A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” in Dover, Del. on Oct. 11, 2014

–Listing of plantation events through December 2014 also included–

(DOVER, Del.–Oct. 3, 2014)–The sounds of muskets and dueling swords, the scents of hearth-cooking and potpourri-making, and the visual beauty of silhouette artistry can all be experienced during the program “A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” that will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014. The [John Dickinson Plantation](#) is located at 340 Kitts Hummock Road in Dover, Del. Admission to all activities is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 302-739-3277.



A member of the Swordmasters demonstrating fencing technique. The living-history organization will be appearing at the “Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” program on Oct. 11, 2014.

Activities that will take place during “A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation” include:

- Fencing demonstrations, and Colonial musket- and rifle-presentations by the Swordmasters—Charles and John Anderson of Centreville, Va.
- Hearth-cooking
- Hands-on potpourri-making
- Silhouette-making by Linda Chatfield
- Spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild
- Demonstration on building construction utilizing wooden pegs, posts and shingles
- Information from the Friends of the John Dickinson Mansion
- Tours of the mansion house



Visitors participating in a Swordmasters fencing demonstration.

The John Dickinson Plantation was the boyhood home and country estate of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States, signer of the U.S. Constitution and “Penman of the Revolution.” The plantation features Dickinson’s original 1740 brick home, reconstructed farm buildings and a log’d dwelling, surrounded by rich agricultural lands stretching down to the banks of the St. Jones River.

Following is a schedule of John Dickinson Plantation events through December 2014. The property is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Times for special programs are indicated. Admission is free for all events listed. For additional information, call 302-739-3277.

John Dickinson Plantation special events through December 2014

Ongoing

"Simple Machines." Exhibit demonstrating the six "simple machines"—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed.

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014

"A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation." Visitors of all ages will enjoy a day of music, food, entertainment and hands-on activities from Colonial trades to hearth cooking in the 18th-century setting of the home of the "Penman of the Revolution." The featured performers will be the Swordmasters giving fencing demonstrations and Colonial musket- and rifle-presentations.



Young patriot at the John Dickinson Plantation.

Friday, Oct. 24, 2014

“Lantern Tours of the Plantation.” Programs explore the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at the plantation during the nighttime in the 18th century. Activities will also include wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the [St. Jones Reserve](#) exploring the nocturnal life of the estuary. Programs 6–7 p.m. and 7:30–8:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

“An 18th-Century Sweet Tooth.” Hands-on workshop in which visitors can learn how to create 18th-century sweets and goodies. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, 2014

John Dickinson’s Birthday Month. Visitors celebrate the birth of John Dickinson by helping to make a great cake and decorate it using royal icing and shaped marzipan. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, 2014

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. 1–3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014

Candle-making workshops. Bayberry-candle workshop from 10 a.m.–noon examines bayberries and their use in creating bayberry candles. Presented in partnership with the [St. Jones Reserve](#). Reservations required by calling the St. Jones Reserve at 302-739-3436. “Light Me Up!” workshop on candle dipping and discussion of lighting devices of the 18th century from 1–3 p.m. Reservations required by calling 302-739-3277 no later than Nov. 14.



Hand-dipped candles at the John Dickinson Plantation. Candle-making workshops will be offered on Nov. 15, 2014.

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014

"Handmade for the Holidays." Seasonal program in which visitors can learn to create and decorate cards through the art of paper quilling and stenciling, and write a personal note with a quill pen. 11–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

"Handmade for the Holidays." Seasonal program in which visitors can create a sachet with herbs and spices. 11–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014

"Handmade for the Holidays." Seasonal program in which visitors can create a plaster ornament. 11–2:30 p.m.

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